

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2008**

**The monthly workshop of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI, on Monday, September 8, 2008. In the absence of the Chairperson, William A. Estrella, Jr, Marjorie J. McBride, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:04 PM.**

**Present: Marjorie J. McBride, Paul Silva, William M. O'Dell, Paul E. Brule, Diana B. Campbell, David L. Dugan, Karen A. Lynch and John P. Saviano; and Edward P. Mara, Superintendent; Mary Cerullo, Executive Director of Literacy K-12, Elementary Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; and Jane F. Correia, Director of Administration and Finance**

**Absent: William A. Estrella, Jr.**

**OPENING BUSINESS**

**All present were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

**Accolades**

**Three of our Guiteras School students won all levels of the 2008 4th of July Essay Contest. We congratulate:**

**Joshua Roy Kindergarten & First Grade Level**

**Mills Sparkman Second & Third Grade Level**

**Alex Temple Fourth & Fifth Grade Level**

**An article appeared recently in the Providence Journal about an 11 year old boy who, while on vacation with his family in Burlingame State Park, was swimming in Watchaug Pond and noticed a man go under the water and not come up. The boy started yelling for the lifeguard who quickly swam out and pulled the distressed man from the water and resuscitated him. Had the young man not acted when he did, the man might well have drowned. We are proud to say that this young man is one of our Kickemuit Middle School students. We proudly recognize Joshua Zasowski.**

**Thanks to the quick action and responsible thinking of one of our Mt. Hope High School students, a Bristol man is alive today. The man was painting a house, fell and broke a bone which punctured the skin.**

**The young man saw this, applied a tourniquet so the man would not bleed to death, then called 911. We commend Matthew Savino and thank him for clear thinking and quick action in a tense situation.**

**Another one of our own took life saving action recently. While having lunch on the Bristol water front, our Project Manager noticed a man had fallen into Bristol Harbor and was in distress, when he dove in**

**and pulled the man to safety. We would like to recognize and commend our Project Manager for the Colt Andrews Construction Project, Christopher Daly.**

**We would like to recognize the efforts of two of our staff members, who provided a wonderful, safe, fun, summer day-care experience for many of our youngsters through the COZ Program. The COZ Program has provided excellent support for many, many of our District families over the past several years and we gratefully recognize both Myra Webster and Patricia Brissette.**

**Mr. Steven Eaton, Industrial Technology Teacher at Mt. Hope High School, spoke about the great efforts to develop a marine trades program at Mt. Hope and the coordination with IYRS, the yacht restoration program in Newport. The MY TURN Program, through grant funding, provided for ten students to attend a five-week program at IYRS this summer. Mr. Eaton introduced Wendy Macki, the Executive Director of MY TURN in Rhode Island. Ms. Macki distributed an information booklet on MY TURN and said when she first visited Mt. Hope High School, she was impressed with the boat building and school to work programs in place. She commended Colleen Power, the MY TURN Career Specialist at Mt. Hope for the great job she does working with the students. Troy Durand, one of the students who attended the summer program at IYRS, said the students had to adapt to different learning environments; he very much enjoyed the sailing, and the students worked three out of four**

days on the boats in two five-person teams. The boats are named “Snappy” and “Minty.” Mr. Eaton mentioned that in an effort to raise funds for next year’s program, the blue boat will be raffled off at the up-coming International Boat Show in Newport. Mrs. McBride praised the staff and students.

## **PRESENTATION ON ELA CURRICULUM**

Mrs. Mary Cerullo, Executive Director of Literacy for the District, presented the 2008 K-8 ELA Curriculum which will serve the District for approximately five years. The curriculum is driven by regional and federal regulations such as NCLB and NEASC. We have actually reached the 2011 benchmarks. The teams first looked at reading scores to determine where we need to go; 70 to 80% of students are reading at grade level; 2014 federal regulations will require 100% at grade level. In writing, we surpass state results and we can do better.

This is a professional and technical document written by and for teachers and is a living document that is constantly revised and refined to keep up with technological advances; it guides our teachers. Research says the number one factor for student success is a vital curriculum.

Mrs. McBride asked if some sort of guide is available for parents to know if their child is meeting expectations; Mrs. Cerullo is planning this year to put together a pamphlet of outcomes in parent-friendly language. Mr. Saviano is amazed at the number of participants

involved in the development of this curriculum. Mrs. Cerullo explained that once the team created a draft, it was sent to all K – 5 teachers with a review sheet for comments and suggestions which were incorporated. The curriculum was field tested in grades 6 to 8. New to this curriculum is a curriculum map for K – 5 showing how to get to where you need to go and serves as a pacing guide and scope in sequence. In grades 6 – 8 curriculum is written in a unit of study which combines the writing and reading standards; the different grade levels do a great deal of collaborating with each other. There are rubrics for teachers as well as students. Mrs. Campbell commented that rubrics provide much more detailed information to parents and students on scoring. Mrs. Cerullo went on to say it helps students understand and improve and they are being graded against a standard rather than against each other. There is also a glossary of terms so that all have an understanding of a common language.

Mrs. Cerullo stated the District uses a new assessment, M Class Reading 3D and we are the first district in Rhode Island to use palm pilots, with which the teachers are very happy. Programs now available to students who are having difficulty in writing are Alpha Smarts and Neo Smarts. ELMOS, a document reader, were purchased last year and are very popular and successful and are not just for students with IEPs. Mrs. Lynch felt that she and probably many other parents would like some of these tools for home use; the information will be posted on our website. Mrs. Cerullo encouraged community involvement and acknowledged a number of recent

**donations of beautiful books.**

**This year the District is moving from a 5 to a 4 point rubric; NECAP reports on a 4 point rubric. All the relative information will be on the District website and parents, students and teachers will be well instructed on the change. Mrs. Cerullo thanked the many teachers who worked hard on putting this curriculum together. Mr. Dugan asked about the teachers' reaction; Mrs. Cerullo said there were very few suggestions for revisions and they were glad to have a document to work from. Mr. Saviano thanked Mrs. Cerullo for her great presentation; he feels this curriculum will benefit all students. Mrs. McBride added this community is very lucky to have teachers, parents and volunteers who come together to do this work.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION - 8:10 PM**

**In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mr. Silva motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:10 PM for discussion of a contract issue. Mr. Saviano seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**At 8:40 PM Mr. Silva left the meeting.**

#### **RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 8:40 PM**

**The Committee discussed contract.**

## **ON-LINE PROGRAMS FOR PARENTS**

**Dr. Mara said I-Parent is a wonderful tool for parents to check on their child's attendance and assignments; it has been available at Mt. Hope for two years and now at Kickemuit, where it is not yet mandatory for teachers. Even if a teacher does not participate in I-Parent, parents are still called by secretaries when a child is absent. Mrs. Campbell suggested parents be reminded around the time of flu season about the policy for making up assignments due to absences because of illness.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S ISSUES AND UPDATES**

**Dr. Mara thanked everyone who helped with the opening of Colt Andrews School; it could not have happened without the cooperative spirit of the entire community; the Roger Williams students were phenomenal; the number of volunteer hours put in was unbelievable.**

**Dismissal and Bussing: Dr. Mara wished to clarify for parents that if a school dismisses at 2:55 PM, this does not mean that the bus leaves the school yard at 2:55 PM, it is usually 10 minutes later. Bussing went great the first week of school.**

## **CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES**

**Technology Audit:** Mrs. Campbell, while working on technology issues at Colt Andrews, had the idea of having a professional review of technology in our District at a cost of \$300 to \$500. Dr. Mara mentioned that we are considered to be one of the leaders in the State of Rhode Island; he would have no objection, but we may discover we need an additional staff member because of our high level of technology.

## **BUDGET/ FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. O'Dell reported the next Budget meeting is Monday, September 15, at 6:00 PM at Oliver. Any agenda items should be brought to his attention.

## **PERSONNEL/CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Silva reported on BWEA negotiations in executive session.

## **POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mrs. Campbell had presided over the last Subcommittee meeting, and reported the procurement policies will go before the Budget Subcommittee; new regulations on peanut allergy laws are being reviewed by Dr. Mara. Dr. Mara is reviewing them as well as the medically fragile student policy with Dr. Parker. Mrs. McBride said



any further changes to the medically fragile policy need to go before Attorney Henneous and the second reading can be postponed if necessary.

#### **SCHOOL AND CLASS OFFICERS TASK FORCE**

Mrs. Campbell reported she and Mrs. Thies have met and thought maybe sports captains should be included in the plans to train students in the decision making process so they can participate. She will have more information at the next meeting. Mrs. McBride said there are students out there who are not class officers but have a great deal to offer and should be included in the training. Mrs. Campbell suggested student leaders can train their classmates. Dr. Mara added that some of this happens during their advisories. Mrs. Campbell said that when students participate they are empowered.

#### **ADJOURNMENT – 9:03 PM**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Brule, seconded by Mr. O'Dell, motioned to adjourn at 9:03 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

**William M. O'Dell, Treasurer**  
**For Paul Silva, Secretary**

**/c**